Adjournment motion re suspension of coercive action for Recovery of Land Revenue.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) The adjournment motion which I have to move reads thus :

"The necessity to stop the coercive action of the Land Revenue Department for the collection of revenue."

Sir, it is an admitted fact that Travancore is preeminently an agricultural country. It is also admitted that we are passing through a period of acute economic depression.

It is not denied by anybody that the section which is most deeply affected by the economic depression is the agricultural population in the country. Almost all the other classes of people in this country have to depend for their income upon the produce of the country ; because if the ryots do not derive sufficient profit by their cultivation, neither the lawyer nor the doctor nor the Government servant will be able to get his pay and earn a living. So, it is absolutely necessary that the interests of the agricultural population must be the first and foremost consideration of the Government. The figures supplied by the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee show that the price of agricultural produce has gone down considerably and in certain cases to 25 per cent. Copra, which was fetching Rs. 100 per candy in1100 now gives only Rs. 57 or even less ; pepper also which was fetching Rs. 600 per candy now gives only Rs. 147. In that manner, the prices of almost all agricultural products have gone down. The land revenue has to be paid from the produce of the land. The principle that has been laid down with regard to land revenue is, not that it should be collected in proportion to the gross yield from the land, but that it should be based upon the margin which is left with the cultivator after meeting the expenses of cultivation and after meeting his needs. It is really a *revenue* and not a rent. It is due to this reason that the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee, which was sitting at the latter part of last year, sent in an interim proposal requesting Government to stay the coercive steps for the realisation of revenue. Of course, with certain modifications, Government acted upon that recommendation ; an order was passed at the close of Mithunam last year to the effect that in deserving cases, the coercive action should be stayed ; and that order stated that it would be in force till the close of Karkatakam. At the close of Karkatakam, another order was issued that, until further orders, the previous order would be extended. Though the depression has not disappeared by the beginning of Tulam, the Government cancelled the previous order and issued instructions to proceed with the collections. Now, the present condition is not in any way better than what was prevailing last year. I have to say that it is much worse. And by coercive processes, Government have realised the arrears, that were due from the people for 1106, during 1107 ; and attempts were made to collect the tax for 1107 before the close of 1107. In spite of the fact that the economic depression is working adversely to a greater extent this year, the people are asked to pay revenue—people who were unable to pay the revenue last year, and who deserve some consideration, are asked to pay two years' tax this year. What I have

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[Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan.]

to submit is that Government will not be acting properly if they proceed to realise revenues without considering all these facts. In Travancore, if we look into the Administration Report of the Land Revenue Department, we find that about 50 per cent. of the tax is collected after the issue of demand notices. When I looked into the Administration Report of Mysore, I found, that there, only about 20 per cent. of the land revenue is collected by the issue of demand notices. I do not blame the Government for issuing demand notices to the defaulters. I bring this matter to the notice of the House only to show that the capacity of the tax-payer to pay the tax imposed is very low as compared with the ryots in Mysore. Otherwise, people would not pay 4 chackrams demand notice fee even for small amounts of Re. 1 or ch. 1. Though in the latter half of last year an order was issued to the effect that coercive processes would be stayed till the close of the year, we find that the number of demand notices issued last year was about 40 per cent. more than that for 1105. Since no figures are available in regard to this year, I could not base any argument on that. But it could be safely assumed that this year it is almost double the number of demand notices issued in 1105.

Sir, Government exist for the benefit of the people. If they are not going to care for the welfare of the people and take remedial measures to relieve them from the present distress, I fear that the consequences will be very grave. Here I am not asking Government to do something positive to benefit the ryots: I am only requesting them to stay their hands from further oppressing the ryots. This is a modest request. I am only asking for suspending the coercive action.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): For what period ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): What year's tax is to be suspended from coercive action ? The arrears of 1107 or the tax of 1108, or 1109 ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I will answer that. My own view is that people must be given sufficient breathing time to pay these dues. I am not going to fix it at 6 months. If for 1106 they are not able to pay at the instalment dates, they may be allowed to pay during the next year. Similarly, if they are not able to pay the tax for 1107 in 1108, they may be allowed to pay it in 1109. Extension of time must be given to them. Now, before the Financial Secretary puts that question, I want him to consider the real condition of the people. If the highly paid Government officers would go about the country and ascertain the real situation, I am sure such questions would not be put by the members on the opposite side. When a hungry man—

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Does the member say that the officers are sympathetic enough ?

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I do not think so.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): He said that if they would go about the country they would sympathise with the people.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): They are also human beings and they will be moved by the condition of the people.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Are there not people who are able to pay?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Of course, there are. Here the question is not whether some people are able to pay or not. Here the tax has to be paid from the produce of the land. And when it is admitted by the Government, and by the Dewan in his Assembly address by the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee and by all others, that the price has gone down so much, the choice of determining who are such people as cannot pay the revenue will be left to the Revenue subordinates. The Tahsildar will be called upon to say who is able to pay and who is not able to pay. And he will call upon the Provertikar to say that. Very often they will exempt the wrong persons.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Will not such a general suspension of payment of revenue as is advocated by the member induce people who are able to pay not to pay the same?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The heavens are not going to fall if we do that. Government will be only helping the economic prosperity of the country. Sir, even if a rich man who is able to pay is permitted to postpone payment, that will be only useful to the people. He will have his money with him and he can use it for other purposes. I am quite against drawing that distinction between these classes of people because a proper and efficient machinery could not be found for drawing a line between the two.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): One question. Suppose instead of bringing lands to auction sale, the Sirkar undertakes the management of the land and then credits the income from them towards the arrears of tax, would it be an agreeable proposal?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): It will never be an agreeable proposal. My friend who is more or less conversant with the management of estates by Receivers and other agencies will be aware that only a very small fraction of the real holding will go either to the owner or to the Government. And the Government cannot be the managing *karanavan* of the whole State.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Is there not a provision like that in the Revenue Recovery Regulation? The yield can be fixed with reference to the previous year's yield and so there will be no room for foul play in the management.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): What I wish to submit with regard to that point is this. There must be an agency to compare the yield of two years and ascertain the yield of this year. If there is foul play in that, you must commence proceedings against the person. All that will be cumbrous proceedings and will be a machine of oppression.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is almost up; you have got only two minutes more.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): What I wish to impress upon this House is that they must in the interests of Government, in the interests of the country and in order to avoid the very grave consequences resulting from this economic depression and this unsympathetic attitude of Government, the Government must stay their hands from oppressing the poor cultivators, whose means of existence—

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Is it the proposition of the member that, in all cases, coercive steps should be stopped?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Yes.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Is it his idea that coercive steps should be stopped indiscriminately without considering whether a person is able to pay or not?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I do not know who will be able to say whether a person is able to pay or not.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether this may be done in particular cases?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I have answered that question completely. I stated that it is very difficult to draw the distinction; and there is absolutely no harm if people who are able to pay do not pay, because that money will be useful to the poor men in the neighbourhood. That will save the country from further troubles.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): സർ, ഭൂനികുതി പിരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള നിർബ്ബന്ധ നടപടികൾ നിറുത്തിവയ്ക്കണമെന്ന മി. ദാമോദരനാശാന്റെ അടിയന്തരപ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ സകല വിധ ഐശ്വര്യങ്ങളും കർഷകവർഗ്ഗത്തിന്റെ സാമ്പത്തികനിലയെ ആശ്രയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. കർഷകസമൂഹം അധഃപതിച്ചുപോയാൽ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഐശ്വര്യവും അധഃപതിച്ചു പോകയും ഈ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള വിവിധതൊഴിലാളികളും ദാരിദ്ര്യക്കുണ്ടിൽ അകപ്പെടുകയുംചെയ്യും. കർഷകവർഗ്ഗത്തിന്റെ ആഭ്യന്തരമാണ് ഡാക്ടർമാരുടെയും വക്കീൽമാരുടെയും മറ്റു തൊഴിലാളികളുടെയും

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എന്ന വേണ്ട ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥമാരുടെ തന്നെയും കാലക്ഷേപമാർഗ്ഗത്തിന്റെ അടിസ്ഥാനം. അവരെയെല്ലാം പോഷിപ്പിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ മൂല തരുവിന്റെ വേര് ഉണങ്ങി നശിച്ചുപോകാൻ പോകുന്നപോലെ തോന്നുന്നു. ഇതുകൊണ്ടു ഉപജീവനം നടത്തിവരുന്ന ഉദ്യോസ്ഥന്മാർ, നിഷ്കരുണം അതിനെ ഉണക്കിക്കളവാൻ സഹായിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതാണ് അധികകഷ്ടം.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും ഭ്രനികൃതികൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അവരുടെ മേലും നിർബന്ധനടപടി നടത്തുന്നതു നിറുത്തിവയ്ക്കണൊ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): അവരുടെമേൽ നടത്തുന്ന നടപടി ഇപ്പോഴും നിറുത്തിവയ്ക്കേണ്ട; എന്തുകൊണ്ടെന്നാൽ അവക്കു വമ്പിച്ച ശമ്പളമുണ്ട്; ൧൦൦ രൂപാകൊണ്ടു വഹിച്ചു വന്നിരുന്ന കാര്യങ്ങാം ഇന്നു ൫൦ രൂപാകൊണ്ടു വഹിക്കാം. പ്രായോഗികാത്ഥത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ സമൂഹമാണ്. അവരുടെ ഉപദേശമനുസരിച്ചാണു ഗവണ്മെൻറുനിർബന്ധ നടപടി സാധുജനങ്ങളുടെ മേൽ പോലും നടത്തുവാൻ അനുവദിക്കുന്നതെന്നു വേണംഅനുമാനിക്കാൻ.

ഇവിടെ കച്ചവടക്കാരുണ്ട്; വ്യവസായികളുണ്ടു; ഇവരെല്ലാം കൃഷിത്തൊഴിലിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയെ ആശ്രയിച്ചു തന്നെയാണ് ജീവിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇവിടത്തെ കയറുമതി ചരക്കുകൾ൦ കർഷക വിഭവങ്ങളാണ്. ഇറക്കുമതി കൃഷിക്കാർ വാങ്ങുന്ന ചരക്കുകളുമാണ്. സാധാരണ ഓരൊ രാജ്യത്തും കർഷകാവലിയെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ആപൽഘട്ടങ്ങളിൽ സഹായിച്ചു കൊണ്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നതു. മറുഗവണ്മെൻറുകൾ൦ കൃഷിക്കാരെസഹായിക്കുന്നതിനു അവരുടെ ആദായത്തിൽ ഒരു പങ്കു ഭ്രനികൃതി മാത്രമെ കൊടുത്തു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നുള്ളു. അയൽരാജ്യമായ കൊച്ചിയിലൊ, ബ്രീട്ടീഷ് മലബാറിലൊ, ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ മറു ഭാഗങ്ങളിലൊ ഇല്ലാത്ത ഒരു നികൃതിക്കൂടി ഇവിടെ കൃഷിക്കാർ കൊടുത്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. കയറുമതിത്തീരുവഇനത്തിൽ വലിയ സംഖ്യ ഈടാക്കുന്നതും ഈ കൃഷിക്കാരിൽ നിന്നു തന്നെയാണ്. അതു ബ്രിട്ടീഷുമലബാറിലൊ കൊച്ചിയിലൊ ഇല്ല. കൃഷിയിൽ ആദായം കിട്ടിയാലും ഇല്ലെങ്കിലും കരം മുറയ്ക്കു പിരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. തീരുവയും അങ്ങനെതന്നെ. ഇഞ്ചികൃഷി തന്നിഷ്ടക്കാം. ഇഞ്ചി ചുക്കാക്കിയാണല്ലൊ വിദേശങ്ങളിലേക്കയച്ചു വലവാങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഒരു കണ്ടി ചുക്കിനു

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

ഇപ്പോൾ ൽ വ രൂപയാണ് വില. ആ സ്ഥലത്തിൽ നികുതികൊടുക്കണം. ഒരു കണ്ടി ചുക്കുണ്ടാക്കാൻ ഏകദേശം ഭ ൦ രൂപായോളം കൃഷിച്ചിലവും വേണം. ഇതിൽ ഫ ഛ രൂപാ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ വിലയ്ക്കു കൃഷിക്കാരനു നഷ്ടമാണ്. ഇതിനും പുറമെ തീരുവയും നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുകൊടുക്കണം. ലമൻഗ്രാസ് രണ്ടുമൂന്നു താലൂക്കുകളിൽ അധികമായി കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്. പത്തുലക്ഷം രൂപായുടെ പുൽതൈലം കയറുമതി ചെയ്യുകയുന്നു. ഒരു ഡസൻ കുപ്പിപുൽതൈലത്തിനു ഛ ൦ രൂപാവരെ കർഷകനു ചിലവുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽഅയാൾക്കു അതിന് ഇപ്പോൾ കിട്ടുന്നചില ഫ ഭ രൂപായാണ്; അഞ്ചു രൂപാനഷ്ടം. ഇതിനും പുറമെ തീരുവയും കയ്യിൽനിന്നു കൊടുക്കണം. കരുമുളകിനു ഇന്നു ഫ ഒ രൂപായെ വിലയുള്ളൂ. എങ്കിലും ന്യ ൦ രൂപാവില ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന കാലത്തുള്ള തീരുവ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഈടാക്കികൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): ഭൂനികുതിയെപ്പറ്റിയാണ് ഇവിടെ പറയുന്നതു്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*) ഭൂനികുതി പിരിക്കുന്നതിനു നടത്തുന്ന നിബന്ധ നടപടി നിറുത്തി വയ്ക്കണം എന്നുള്ളതാണ് വിഷയമെന്നെനിക്കറിയാം. എന്നാൽ അതുകാരണങ്ങൾ സഹിതം പറയേണ്ടതല്ലെ? കർഷകർ വിളവുകളുടെ വിലക്കുറവിനാൽ കഷ്ടതയിൽ കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടുന്നു; എങ്കിലും അവർ മറ്റു രാജ്യങ്ങളിലില്ലാത്ത പലവക തീരുവ നികുതികളും കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു നിർബന്ധിതരായി കഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ അവരുടെ കഷ്ടതയുടെ കാഠിന്യത്തെ കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ട ഗവണ്മെൻറു കരം പിരിവിനുള്ള നിർബന്ധനടപടികൾ നിമിത്തം അവരെ കൂടുതൽ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതു് വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണെന്നാണു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്.

മിക്ക വിളവുകൾക്കും കർഷകർ തീരുവ കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. കൊച്ചിയിലും ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് മലബാറിലും ഏക്കറിനു ഒരു രൂപാമുതൽ ഫ ൽ രൂപാവരെയെ സാധാരണ പുരയിടങ്ങൾക്കുകരമുള്ളൂ. ഇവിടെയും കരം അതു തന്നെയുണ്ട്. ഭൂമിയിൽ നിന്നും ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന വിഭവങ്ങളുടെ തീരുവ കൂടി കൂട്ടിനോക്കുമ്പോൾ ഇവിടത്തെ കരം ഏക്കറിനു ഫ ൦ രൂപായാണ്. അയൽ രാജ്യങ്ങളെക്കാൾ എത്രയൊ മടങ്ങു കൂടുതൽ നികുതി കൊടുത്തു രാജ്യസേവനം നടത്തിവരുന്ന ജനതതി ഇതാ ആപത്തിൽ പതിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഗവർമെൻറുനോക്കുക; അതിന്റെ അധികവശങ്ങളും കു

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ഷിക്കാരുടെ ഭൂമി ലേലം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുള്ള പരസ്യങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടു നിറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഓരോ താലൂക്കുകളിലും അഞ്ഞൂറും, എണ്ണൂറും, ആയിരവും നമ്പർ വസ്തുക്കൾ വീതമാണ് ലേലത്തിനു വച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. വസ്തുക്കളെല്ലാം ഇങ്ങനെ ലേലത്തിൽ വിറ്റു കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ സാമ്പത്തിക വിഷമം തീർന്നവരുമ്പോൾ കൃഷിക്കാരിൽ എത്ര പേർക്കു സ്ഥാവരവസ്തുക്കൾ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കും? ഈ വസ്തുക്കൾ ആരുടെ അടുക്കൽ ചെന്നു ചേരുന്നു? ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെയും അവരുടെ ചാർച്ചക്കാരുടെയും കയ്യിൽപോകും. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ നന്നാകുന്നതിലുള്ള അസൂയകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ഇതു പറയുന്നതല്ല; അവർ നന്നായിരിക്കട്ടെ. കർഷകന്റെ കഷ്ടതയുടെ യഥാർത്ഥം ഉറന്നുപറയുന്നതെയുള്ളു. "യഥാർത്ഥവാദി ലോകവിരോധി" എന്ന ആപ്തവാക്യം ഉണ്ടു്. അതിനാൽ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതിൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ ചിലർക്കു വിരോധമായിതോന്നിയേക്കാം. അവരുടെപക്കലെ ഇപ്പോഴും പണമുള്ളു. ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു സ്ഥിതിവരുന്നതു രാജ്യത്തിനു ശ്രേയസ്സുരമല്ല. ഇവിടെയുള്ള ഭൂമിയെല്ലാം ഏതാനും ചിലരുടെ കൈവശത്തിലാകുമ്പോൾ അവർ കൃഷിചെയ്യുകയില്ല. കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിനു മറ്റാളുകൾവേണം. ഒടുവിൽ ഐർലണ്ടിൽ വസ്തു ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാരും കൃഷിക്കാരുംതമ്മിൽ നടന്നുകൊണ്ടിരുന്ന മത്സരങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെയും വരാം. ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഉപദേശം നൽകുന്നമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽക്കൂടി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. കർഷകവർഗ്ഗത്തിന്റെ കഷ്ടതകളെപ്പറ്റി സാരമായി പരിഗണിക്കുന്നില്ല. അതവർക്കു ശരിയായറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ക്ഷേമത്തെ മുൻനിറുത്തി രാജ്യത്തിന്റെഐശ്വര്യത്തെ പരിരക്ഷിക്കുകയാണു് അവരുടെ കടമ എന്നുള്ളതു് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥവൃന്ദം വിസ്മരിച്ചുകളയുന്നു. ജനങ്ങളുടെസ്ഥിതി കഷ്ടതയിലാക്കി രാജ്യഭണ്ഡാഗാരത്തെ പോഷിപ്പിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു എന്താണു് പ്രയോജനം? അതു വണ്ടിയുടെപുറകിൽ കുതിരയെകെട്ടുന്നതുപോലെയാണു്. ഗവണ്മെൻറു് ഒരു കച്ചവടകമ്പനിയാണൊ? അങ്ങനെയാണെങ്കിൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളെ അവഗണിച്ചു പണം സമ്പാദിക്കുന്നതിൽ കുറച്ചെട്ടത്താനധികാരമില്ല. നേരെമറിച്ചു ഗവണ്മെൻറു ജനങ്ങളെ രക്ഷിക്കേണ്ട ഒരു സ്ഥാപനമാണു്; ജനക്ഷേമത്തെ വിസ്മരിച്ചു് പണം സമ്പാദിച്ചു് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു പങ്കിട്ടുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഒരു സ്ഥാപനമല്ല. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ എന്തുതന്നെ ചെയ്താലും മഹാരാജാവുതിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു് ജനങ്ങളുടെ ക്ഷേമത്തെ സർവ്വപ്രധാനമായി പരിഗണിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ജനങ്ങൾക്കറിയാം, ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ സ്വേച്ഛാപ്രവർത്തനം അവ

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[Mr Tariatu Kunjitomman]

രെ നന്നായി കഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും, രാജഭക്തി എന്നുള്ള ഒരു സംഗതികൊണ്ടു അവർ അടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾ സാധുക്കളും സമാധാനചിത്തരുമാണു്. എന്നാൽ അവരുടെ സ്വൈസ്വവും നഷ്ടപ്പെടത്തക്കനിലയിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ രാജ്യത്തു വലിയ വിഷമങ്ങളും അസ്വസ്ഥതയും ഉണ്ടായേക്കാം.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള കൂടിശ്ശിക പിരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള നടപടി നിറുത്തിവയ്ക്കണമെന്നാണൊ മെമ്പർ പറയുന്നതു്?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള കുടിശ്ശിക ഈടാക്കുന്നതിനായാലും ശരി, മേലാൽ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു ഈടാക്കുന്നതിനായാലുംശരി, ഈ സാമ്പത്തിക വിഷമംതീരുന്നതുവരെ കരം പിരിവിനു നിർബന്ധനടപടികൾ നടത്തരുതു്.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : നിർബന്ധനടപടി നിറുത്തിവച്ചാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ശരിയായികരംകൊടുത്തു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നവരും മേലാൽ കൂടിശ്ശികയിടാൻ ഇടയില്ലെ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): കൃഷീവലന്മാരെല്ലാം സാമ്പത്തിക വിഷമത്തിൽ ഏർപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കയാണു്; ഉള്ളവർ നടപടിക്രമമൊന്നും കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): ഈ ആണ്ടത്തെ കരം മിക്കവാറും ഈടായികഴിഞ്ഞു എന്നറിയാമൊ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): അതെങ്ങനെയാണെന്നും കൂടി എനിക്കറിയാം. സാധുക്കളെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തി കണ്ണുനീരും കയ്യുമാക്കി അവരുടെ ആഭരണങ്ങളും വയ്ക്കുന്നചെമ്പുപാത്രങ്ങളും കിടക്കുന്നകട്ടിലുകളും മറ്റും വിറ്റാണു് ഇതുയും ഇടാക്കിയതു്. എത്ര ദയനീയമായ സംഭവങ്ങളാണു് നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളിൽ നടക്കുന്നതു് എന്നു അവിടത്തെ സ്ഥിതികണ്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന അവരുടെ പ്രതിനിധികൾക്കു ഗൽഗദത്തോടുകൂടിയല്ലാതെ പറയുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. ധർമ്മരാജ്യത്തു ഇങ്ങനെയും നടക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻററിയുന്നുണ്ടൊ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : ഭൂനികുതികൊടുക്കാൻ ശേഷിയുള്ളവരും ശേഷിയില്ലാത്തവ

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രുമുണ്ടല്ലൊ. ശേഷിയില്ലാത്തവരുടെ മേൽമാത്രം നിർബന്ധനടപടി നിറുത്തിവച്ചാൽപോരെ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ യുക്തംപോലെ ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കാൻ വിട്ടുകൊടുത്താൽ അതിൽ ധാരാളം ദോഷങ്ങളുണ്ടാകുമെന്നുള്ളതു ഒ൭ വർഷമായി ഒരു ജനപ്രതിനിധി എന്ന നിലയിൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്ന എനിക്കു നല്ലവണ്ണമറിയാം. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിനു വിട്ടുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള അനേകം സംഗതികൾ ഈ രാജ്യത്തുണ്ടു്. അതിൽ മിക്കതിലും സാമാന്യജനങ്ങൾക്കു ദോഷമാണു ഫലം; ചിലതിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനും ദോഷമുണ്ടാകും. വേണ്ടാത്തസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം അവർ അവരുടെ സ്വേച്ഛാധികാരം കാണിക്കും. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാക്കു സാമ്പത്തികവിഷമം തീരെ ഇല്ല.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): മി: കുഞ്ഞിത്തൊമ്മൻതന്നെ ഒരു വിചാരണ നടത്തുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ജനങ്ങളിൽ ഏതാനുംപേക്കു ഭ്രനികൃതി കൊടുക്കാൻ ശേഷിയുള്ളതായി കാണുകയില്ലെ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): അങ്ങനെയുള്ളവർ കൊടുക്കും; പ്രത്യേകം നീക്കിനിറുത്താൻ ആരുമില്ല. നിർബ്ബന്ധനടപടി നിറുത്തി വയ്ക്കുകതന്നെവേണം. മൊത്തത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവു ചുരുക്കണം. വന്നിച്ച ശമ്പളത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ... ആക്കാതിരിക്കണം. പരക്കെശമ്പളം കുറയ്ക്കണം. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകാം കുറെ സഹിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ കഷ്ടതയിൽ അവരും പങ്കുകൊള്ളേണ്ടവരല്ലെ? ശമ്പളം പകുതിയായി കുറച്ചാലും അവക്കു സങ്കടത്തിനവകയില്ല. ഇന്നു ൪൦ രൂപായ്ക്കു ൧൦൦ രൂപായുടെ വിലയുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ മുമ്പു പറഞ്ഞല്ലൊ.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ മേലും ഭ്രനികൃതി പിരിക്കുന്ന നടപടി നിറുത്തിവയ്ക്കേണ്ടയൊ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): വേണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ മുമ്പുപറഞ്ഞു. ശമ്പളം ൧൦൫-നു ൪൦ രൂപാ ആക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ നിറുത്തിവയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. ൧൦൦-നു ൪൫ ആക്കിയാൽ നിറുത്തിവയ്ക്കേണ്ട. എന്നാൽ ൩൦ രൂപായ്ക്കു താഴെയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം കുറക്കരുതു്. ഇവിടെയുള്ള പരിഷ്കാരമെല്ലാം

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman]

ഉയർന്ന നിലയിലുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്ക് ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടികൊടുക്കുന്നതിലും പുതിയ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ സൃഷ്ടിക്കുന്നതിലും താഴെയുള്ളവരുടെ ശമ്പളവും എണ്ണവും കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിലുമാണ കാണുന്നതു്. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരാണല്ലൊ മാസപ്പടിക്കാർ, പോലീസ് കാൺസ്റ്റബിൾമാർ ഇവരൊക്കെ. ഇവരിൽ മദ്ധ്യാദക്കാർ നന്നായി ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുന്നുണ്ട്. സാധുക്കളുടെ കയ്യിൽ നിന്നും പിടിച്ചു പറിക്കാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലെന്നുള്ള നിലയിലാണ് ഏറെക്കുറെ അവരുടെ അവസ്ഥ.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Your time is up.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): ഇതുയും പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു നിർദ്ധനടപടി നിറുത്തിവയ്ക്കണമെന്ന മി: ദാമോദരൻ ആശാന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ ബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Sir, I support the motion. There is no denying the fact that the Government also are aware of the sad plight to which the Travancore ryot has been brought down. Not only have they conceded it but they have also shown some concessions in regard to the collection of land revenue and in many other respects to which the Dewan's Assembly address refers. In para 9 of the address, the Dewan has given a list of circumstances and conditions under which the State groans under the economic depression, and in the case of the toddy shop contractors and many other people some substantial concessions also have been shown. And in para 10, as if it were to keep in tune with pare 9, the Dewan says that the Government have tried so many retrenchment measures as a result of which he gives us a hope that much expense on the salary side also would be brought down. That remains to be seen when we consider the Budget. Sir, it is known to everybody that the condition of the Travancore ryot is very bad now ; and the enquiries conducted by the Banking Enquiry Committee and the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee give us very appalling facts. It is stated there, with facts and figures, and on the strength of calculations made with as much accuracy as possible, that the Travancore ryot is indebted to the extent of Rs. 68 per head which, on the whole, amounts to 25 crores of rupees or so. In Travancore, not only is the land taxed but the tree is taxed and the crop from the tree is also taxed. You have driven the ryot to the end of his means ; you cannot push him further even by an inch. That is the condition to which he has been reduced. Suppose a remission, a remission equivalent to an year's revenue is made at this time, what will it amount to ? At the most, to about 33 lakhs of rupees. Thirty-three lakhs is a substantial amount, I concede. But in consideration of the fact that the Travancore ryot is the backbone of the society and that upon him alone is based all that we see here which is only a source of waste and expense, in consideration of what the

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Travancore ryot is entitled to, at the hands of the Government, in consideration of all these, can you not allow an year's revenue to be remitted? Certainly, he will appreciate it and it will directly or indirectly benefit the State. Very often the question is asked by the official benches, "Where can you find money for the salaries of so many officers and to meet so many other expenses." My answer is that for such predicaments Government alone are responsible. We are not taken into their confidence, we are not consulted in the ways and means of making and spending money. You give us a long list of expenditure and you ask us to pay. Where is the justification for that? That is the real position, Sir, I can assure you - though Mr. Kunjitomman expressed it in veiled words—there is terrible agrarian disquiet in the country and if the Government do not come to the help of the ryots, if the Government do not see eye to eye with the people and appreciate their troubles, if the pay of officers drawing Rs. 3,000, 2,000, 1,600 and so on is not brought down at least temporarily to keep in tune with the real circumstances of the country, you are going to see things over which you cannot have any control. (*Hear, hear*). Sir, it is in a laughing spirit, it is in a light spirit, that the official colleagues of this House are treating this question. I think Mr. McAlpine will bear witness—I do not know how that found a place in his report, perhaps it was written to him by an Assistant Inspector of Schools. In a paragraph, a small paragraph in his report for 1106 which was perhaps unknowingly inserted there, it is stated that the condition of the boys in schools is deplorable, that they are indecently dressed and that the shortage in the strength of the schools is due to the present depression affecting them too much. Mr. McAlpine has not even one word to say in regard to this. An officer drawing Rs. 1,600 a month has not a word to say on this! This is the condition of the ryots. Sir, it is simply deplorable. Therefore, I am stating this sufficiently early so that if you do not come down from your heights and see what the condition of the ryot is and set it in order, certainly you are going to reap something which it is better for me not to mention but which you know already.

MR. K PADMANABHA PANIKKAR (*Ambalapuzha*) : Sir, in supporting this motion, I think it is hardly necessary to bring to the notice of the Government the existing state of the country. Government are already in possession of facts through the recommendations of the various committees, the Banking Enquiry Committee, the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee, etc. There is discontent and strife throughout the State. The price of commodities has gone down. Bankers and money lenders are unable to advance money to the ryots on mortgages. Most of the lands are heavily encumbered. Landed properties and cultivable lands do not fetch the value they used to. Under these circumstances, I do not think this proposition will fail to get the full support of the House. Perhaps the capital city is free from the hard effects of the depression. In villages as well as in mofussil towns, this depression is having its full sway. Its effect is simply terrible. Government passed

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[Mr. K. Padmanabha Panikkar]

an order last year, rather late in the year to stop coercive action in deserving cases. This year, conditions have grown worse. The capacity of the ryot to pay the tax has further gone down. The special loans granted to the *kayal* cultivators last year remains unpaid. Government have already collected the crop from their lands and are keeping it in their custody. Neither they nor the people are able to find a market for their sale. The *Kandukrishi* ryot has to pay up the taxes before the year is out. The rate of commutation is high. He is also in a similar predicament. And as a matter of fact, many of the leading ryots in my taluk are in the brink of insolvency. It does not behove the Government to hasten them to their end. I hope Government will study this question sympathetically and with all the consideration it deserves, stop all coercive processes during this year at least. With these few words, I support the motion.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, I move for a closure.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Nadar, the official members have not spoken. Many members on this side of the House also have not spoken. I do not think it would be proper to close the debate at this juncture and proceed with the voting.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I also want to speak a few words on the motion. But my difficulty is how, in the practical working of the proposition, the end which the mover wants us to realise would be served. So many aspects of the question have to be considered while voting on this proposition. First of all, the payment of the arrears that have been accumulating and that are likely to crop up hereafter for a considerable period may have to be deferred. This will give an impetus to those who are able to pay the tax not to pay. As Mr. Asan pointed out they might make this as an excuse to make better use of their money *i. e.*, to lay it out on interest. This is my first difficulty, Sir. Then illustrating the point further, suppose half a dozen people pay regularly and half a dozen are in arrears. No steps are to be taken to realise the amount from the defaulters. What is the difference between the two sets of people? One set of the people pay the revenue regularly and with this money the Government are carrying on their administration. The other set of people, though they may be able to pay would deliberately shirk payment. At the same time, they would make better use of their money. No sort of distinction is thus made between the people who are able to pay and those who are unable to pay. My third difficulty is for what period this postponment of coercive steps is to continue.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know for what period the economic depression will continue?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): So far as I can understand, so far as I am able to understand by any exercise of foresight, the time for which the present depression will continue seems indefinite. Therefore, the period for which this proposition has to be put into operation must also be indefinite. That aspect of the question has

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also to be considered. Anyhow, I want to support the motion. I have no objection if all coercive steps are stopped indefinitely. What about the man who pays his revenue readily? I think he must get a discount of say 5 or 10 per cent. It would be advantageous in two ways—first of all, it will induce the people who *want* to be defaulters to pay the revenue readily and secondly, the coercive steps may be brought to a minimum.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): May I know what percentage of the population of the State will be able to pay the revenue readily?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): For 1106, the amount of arrears, according to the revised estimate was only Rs. 31,000. In 1107, according to the revised estimate it is only Rs: 25,000 and for 1108, cording to the budget estimate it is only Rs. 25,000. Thus it is found that there is not much difference with reference to the figures. It is to be taken from the figures that more than 90 per cent. of the population of the State *are* able to pay readily.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Are not the budget figures prepared by an official?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): We have to proceed on those figures; we have to use those figures for the purpose of advancing arguments whether they be reliable or unreliable?

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastivaram*): May I say that the figures supplied by the Financial Secretary are absolutely unreliable?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That is a matter of opinion.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I myself propose to bring in a cut motion under the Accounts Department. That matter can be discussed then.

I have already said that I have no objection to stop the coercive processes. But I also submit, Sir, that some sort of concession should be allowed to those who pay the tax readily, as Government will be able to carry on the administration with the money thus received and not resort to coercive processes. With these few words, I support the motion before the House.

MR. S. C. H ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, it is true that the prices of all productions of Travancore have gone down. Government are fully aware of the distress that prevails in the state, and I personally know that many of the tax-payers are very badly off, and find it extremely difficult to pay their taxes. But I shall try to put before the House the *pros* and *cons* of the case. It is not possible to accept a motion in this form, because it will mean that the tax-payer who can pay will evade payment. All we want to do is to coerce the man who, even though he is in a position to pay, does not pay. We would gladly help the man who cannot really pay.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Is it Mr. Robinson's view that even at this fag end of the year persons who are able to pay will wait and thus pay the attachment fees and the notice fees also?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Mr. Asan will please wait till I have finished. I have not much time at my disposal.

I understand that most of the *pandarapattom* tax-payers have paid up their taxes and it is really the *Kandukrishi* tax-payers who are going to benefit by the present motion.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapallai*) : May I know what the balance due from the *pandarapattom* tax-payers is?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I have not got the figures now with me. This is what I understand from the office.

The arrears for the last year were Rs. 5,24,000 and the collection including remission has come up to about Rs. 4 lakhs, leaving a balance up to the end of Edavam of Rs. 1,17,000. Under current revenue we have a demand of 38 lakhs. After remission and the writing off of certain revenues and a collection of Rs. 28,76,000, we had a balance under current revenue of Rs. 8,89,000 at the end of Edavam. In Mithunam we collected Rs. 3,71,000. Briefly, our balance *to-day* is about Rs. 6,76,000 and this, I understand, is mostly due from the *Kandukrishi* tenants.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : May I know whether the percentage of coercive proceedings taken during 1107 has any bearing on this?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I have not been able to get the figures relating to coercive proceedings taken during 1107. The resolution was moved only this morning.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : Is the member aware that the percentage is high?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I cannot say yes or no.

Anyhow, I want to point out certain facts. The price of paddy has not gone below 13 chs. per para nor has the price of cocoanut gone down below Rs. 3 per hundred. It is higher than the price fixed at the time of Settlement. Further, Government knowing the financial position of the people reduced the commutation rate for payment of the *Kandukrishi* rent in the Ambalapuzha taluk first from 24 chs. to 20 chs. and then to 15 chs. per para of paddy. They have also reduced in some instances the tax on rubber lands. If, as was suggested, all coercive processes are stopped, even those who are able to pay will be tempted to shirk payment. "Why should we pay", they would ask. Those who have already paid would think themselves fools for having paid the amount. I cannot but help opposing the motion in its present form because it is a general policy that cannot be accepted. If, in special

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cases, there is very real hardship, the people could send in representations through the Tahsildar and the Dewan Peishkar and after careful consideration I would make my recommendations to Government to do what is needful in the matter. But I cannot bind the Government to accept my recommendation. All that I can do is to recommend stopping coercive process in *d serving* cases.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): But who is to decide the question whether a case is a deserving one or not?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Each case will be decided on its own merits.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): But what can Mr. Robinson do? It is the Government who are to decide whether the coercive steps should be postponed or not.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I can make my recommendations to Government, either to extend the time of payment or to remit a certain percentage of the tax, according to the circumstances and the amount of hardship suffered by the ryot.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How many additional clerks would be required to decide these cases?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I do not think any additional staff will be required. It will form part of the routine work of the office.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government have any objection to consult the local Legislative Council members in determining whether a person really deserves concession or not?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): What I say is, the resolution in its present form, cannot be accepted. But in deserving cases, I will make my recommendations to Government. But I cannot bind the Government to accept my recommendation. Under these circumstances Sir, I hope the member will withdraw his motion.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How can a deserving csae come before Mr. Robinson? Suppose a man living in Parur has to be shown some concession, how many days will it take for him to get the concession?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): He must make his representations to the Tahsildar who will forward his report to the Peishkar, and who in turn will forward the same to the Land Revenue Commissioner. The matter must be decided in the usual course.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Time must then elapse, and the lands of the ryot would have been sold in auction before then and the amount realised.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Before the land could be sold and the Dewan Peishkar's order regarding the sale could be confirmed, a month must elapse. The ryot has then the right to appeal to the Land Revenue Commissioner, and again to the Government.

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MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Can the member suggest the approximate cost that such a course would lead to?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I don't think he need have to incur any expenses.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Will the Government accept the petition without the stamp? Will that not put him to some expenses?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I don't think that would be much.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I may be permitted to explain by means of a few figures what Mr. Robinson had said in respect of actual collections.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Being seated at this corner, I can't here anything, Sir.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The budget estimate under land revenue for the current year is Rs 39,25,000, and we have collected up to the end of Edavam 1107, a sum of Rs. 32,43, 028. This figure has been published in the *Gazette* and therefore it could be taken as practically correct.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Can the member not assert that these figures are correct.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes, they are correct to the best of my knowledge.

During the month of Mithunam, the revenue collected is Rs. 3,71,069. Thus the total collections up to the end of Mithunam amount to Rs. 36,14,097 against the budget estimate of Rs. 39,25,000. On the basis of the current year's estimates, the balance that remains to be collected is about Rs. 3 lakhs. But according to the revised estimates, the balance amounts only to Rs. 2,07,000.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Has the amount that was not collected last year and the collection of which was postponed to 1107 also been taken into consideration in preparing these figures?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I am speaking only of the collections that were actually remitted into the treasuries.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether the amounts that were allowed to be paid in 1107 were also taken into consideration when the budget was prepared?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): These figures were also taken into consideration when the *budget was framed.*

According to the revised estimates of land revenue, the balance to be collected for Karkatakam is about Rs. 2,07,000 and I believe a good

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portion of the balance might have been collected by this time. If Mr. Asan's proposition is to be accepted, as it is, we would have to defer collection of a sum of nearly 38 3/4 lakhs of rupees, as this amount represents the gross estimate of 1108, under land revenue.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): With the collection of the balance of Rs. 2 lakhs odd, do we come to the end of the year?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have already said that a good portion might have been collected before this time and the balance that remains to be collected on the basis of the budget estimates would be small. The Finance Department has no idea of the actual demand, under land revenue. I have spoken only in respect of the actual sums collected on the basis of the budget estimates. As regards the remarks of Mr. Nilakanta Pillai and Mr. Nadar in respect of the budget figures under "arrears", I may say that both of them are labouring under a misapprehension. When *puduval* land is registered, Government generally collect back arrears for 5 years. The sum of Rs. 25,000 provided under "arrears" represents such back arrears and the estimated figures for 1108 are fairly correct, on the basis of actuals of 1106.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): In view of the fact that there is only a small amount to be collected, have the Government any objection to stop coercive proceedings with regard to arrears.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The member might put the question to the Land Revenue Commissioner.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): What is the view of the Financial Secretary, may I know?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The resolution is not in my charge. I can only give the financial aspect of it.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Who will speak on behalf of Government in this matter?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Mr. Robinson.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Then why is the member now standing up? In what capacity, please?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have the right, as a member, to speak.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayankial*): Not as Financial Secretary?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Also as Financial Secretary.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): And does he support or oppose it?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I am not bound to answer that question.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Why not?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Some remarks were made by Mr. Robinson and I wanted to make those points clear to the members.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): In the discussion on a resolution like this, can we speak like that? What is the meaning of offering one or two desultory remarks?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: He had to explain the figures. When it comes to voting, you can note whether he opposes the resolution or supports it.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I rise to oppose the motion.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Is the member representing his own views?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am speaking as a member of this House.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Is he representing Government in this matter? That is what we want to know.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): As a member I am speaking.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): If so, I object to that; because that would be waste of public time.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): As a member of this House I am entitled to speak and I am exercising that right.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): So, you are only expressing your personal views.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): My first objection to the motion is this. Assuming that there is economic depression and great hardship, the motion in its present form cannot be accepted.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Even the fact that there *is* depression you doubt.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I only said that I am prepared to assume that we have—

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): That is a misleading statement.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The fact whether there is depression or not is quite irrelevant for the purpose of the present motion, not that I deny the fact of the depression. The resolution of Mr. Asan is quite unreasonable, assuming that there is serious depression. It was conceded by everybody that there are people who can pay tax. It was also conceded that there was no necessity to stop coercive proceedings against such people. I believe

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it will be readily conceded that the one immediate consequence of accepting this motion will be to induce also people who can afford to pay to stop payment.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*) : Has anybody conceded that people who are able to pay have not paid ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Nobody said that. But the motion is intended for such people also. In fact I think that a majority of the people have been able to pay. The motion before the House is this. Mr. Asan wants that coercive steps in regard to tax must be stopped for an indefinite period not for one year, not for 1107 or for 1108. I am asking the House to consider whether that is a reasonable proposition ; the House is responsible, to some extent, for the government of this country.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): When I speak of suspension of coercive action, does it apply to all claims which may accrue in future ? Is the Law Member of that view ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : That is what the member said in his speech. I am willing to be corrected.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : I never said that.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know what is the motion before the House ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : The motion is this. "The necessity for the suspension of coercive action by the officers of the Land Revenue Department for collection of revenue."

I am asking the House whether that is a reasonable proposition. I know that there is a good deal of economic hardship. I know also that the representatives of the people are expected to voice the views of the suffering people and bring them to the notice of the House and of the Government.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Is it the Law Member's interpretation of the motion that all claims that accrue in future should not be realised by Government ? Have I said like that ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : That is what I understood Mr. Asan to say and that is how the motion reads.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : I did not say so.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : I believe Mr. Asan stated that coercive proceedings must be suspended in regard to tax that might accrue in future also—1108, 1109, etc.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I did not say that. All that I stated was this. When the Financial Secretary asked me a question I replied that for payment of arrears the time may be extended to one year.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The question I asked was whether his motion was with reference to the tax for 1107 alone. Mr. Asan said that it must be extended, if necessary, in the case of the dues for 1108 and 1109 also.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I did not say so. What I said was that extension of time should be granted even beyond 1108, if necessary *in regard to the arrears of 1107 alone.*

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Then, there is no difficulty at all. If the motion is only for suspending coercive action in regard to the arrears for 1107, a great deal of the criticism that I wanted to make on the ground of unreasonableness falls through. Now, Sir, the proposition that has to be considered is whether the collection of the arrears for 1107 may be put off and the chief point to be decided is whether the arrears have arisen by reason of the inability to pay or the unwillingness to pay. A considerable portion of the tax has been paid and that necessarily implies that there *is* some ability to pay.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): What is the nature of the coercive process applied?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): How does the member then infer that it implies ability to pay.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Anyhow they have paid. If Mr. Asan based his arguments on the number of sales for arrears, I could have understood that. He did not mention any such thing.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The Land Revenue Commissioner himself has not been able to supply that information.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The mover of the motion must have facts and figures when he expects the House to be convinced at least in some rough way.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Am I correct in understanding that if a particular amount is due on a particular date, after that date it becomes a coercive case?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It may or may not be. It does not in any event prove that the tax-payer is unable to pay.

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MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : Can it not be that a large portion of the collections were obtained by the coercive processes by sale of lands ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : It is possible.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : Does that prove ability to pay ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) Sir, the Law Member said.....

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : I am in possession of the House now. My friend cannot make a speech now.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : I want to clear a doubt. The Financial Secretary said that a large amount had already been collected and that has formed the basis for the Law Member to conclude that the ryots are able to pay. But all those amounts have been collected by coercive processes.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : The Financial Secretary said that only about 10 per cent. of the total amount remain to be collected. Mr. Asan did not tell the House that there has been any sale of property. He only referred to the issue of demand notices.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Is it not a coercive step ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : It is. But, it does not prove the inability to pay. If it is the sale of movables or immovables, then I can understand it. Mr. Asan did not say a word about that.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : Did the member refer to the answer to question No. 2, answered this morning ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : No.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : Question No. 2, Appendix I.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : No.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : The member says that there has been no case of hardship. I am asking whether he would be prepared to refer to the statement furnished this morning.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : I am not prepared to refer to that statement now. I am speaking on the arguments advanced in the House in support of the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : Did not the member want actual facts and figures in support of the motion ? If he wants facts, he can find one there. Does not the member find that there was a large

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[Mr. S. Krishna Pillai.]

number of cases in which the land has been sold for the realisation of arrears of tax of even one chuckram in individual cases? Does it not really show the poor condition of the ryots?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It may or may not. I want the facts relied on by the mover of the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does not the member realise that if in any case arrears of even one chuckram have to be realised by coercive processes, it does not show the inability of the ryot to pay?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May be, most probably.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is not the member prepared to accept the statement supplied in regard to the Karunagapalli taluk as indicative of the general condition in the State?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am not, as I said already. I am now speaking about the facts adduced by the mover of the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does he accept the statement furnished?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes, but not the member's inferences.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Has the member an inference to draw from that?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Will the member kindly hear what I am going to say?

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): Has not the Law Member noticed of late, the *Travancore Government Gazette* swelling with numerous pages giving the list of lands to be sold for arrears of tax?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I have noticed it recently.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): Does it not show that coercive steps are being taken in larger numbers now than before for enforcing payment of arrears.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I accept that suggestion.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): Does it not show that there is more need now to show consideration?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am prepared to concede that also—as regards people who are really unable to pay, but not in the wholesale fashion urged by the motion.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is it the Law Member's view that non-payment is due to defiant spirit?

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MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sir Vakil*): That may be one reason, I merely suggested one example.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Is the Law Member aware that more than 45 per cent. of the land tax was paid before the due date last year? Does it not show that those who are able to pay *are* paying?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That shows that there are people who *are* able to pay. But the *motion* before the House is very wide. No time-limit is fixed in the resolution. If it refers to arrears of tax for 1107 alone, I can appreciate it to some extent though, I cannot accept the proposition.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Is there no time-limit for the Law Member, Sir?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Interruptions have taken my time.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): He has taken about 20 minntes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I can allow you 2 minutes more, Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, the motion as it stands cannot be approved. In all reasonableness the mover must be prepared to take the assurance of Mr. Robinson that deserving cases will be treated with consideration.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Sir, the first point that I wish to answer, is with regard to the observation made by the Law Member that my resolution is very unreasonable in the demand it makes. I have never stated that my resolution is intended to cover future cases of 1108 or 1109.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkail*): As it stands at present, may I know whether the resolution is intended to be put into operation for the rest of the current year?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): It is there that my friend is mistaken. It is intended to apply for arrears of 1107; it does not, in fact, relate to the arrears which may accrue after the close of 1107. What I say is, that arrears due for 1107 should not be realised by coercive processes until conditions improve.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): So, the motion is that coercive steps should not be taken with respect to the 3 lakhs of rupees or so due for 1107, if that is the correct figure.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Yes, if that be the correct figure. I do not accept that. That is an amount for which I wish orders suspending coercive action should be issued.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): Will the member have any objection to fix a definite period?

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): With regard to that matter I do not think it will be proper for me to fix a period. I am quite uncertain about the time when the economic depression would cease.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): It is quite open for the House to fix a period. Suppose the coercive action is to be suspended for a period of six months. What does the member say?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): My present resolution may be taken to have the effect of enabling the people to pay the instalments due in 1107, in 1108 only; that is, the Edavam *tavana* of 1107 may be paid in Edavam 1108. The question of granting further time may be considered at that time, if necessary.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Suppose arrears come only to Rs. 1,000.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): My resolution is intended to give relief to persons who are unable to pay at all, in spite of the coercive action taken by Government. I do not want to deprive Government from realising any large amount. All that I want is to give relief to people who have not paid till now. The Law Member said that I have not given figures of the sales effected by Government. I do not want to base my arguments on surmises. Issue of demand notice is included in the coercive action resorted to by the Land Revenue authorities. I do not agree with the Law Member in the fact that some ryots might not have paid due to a defiant spirit or that he would have simply waited till the issue of demand notice in order that he might have the luxury of paying four chuckrams more to Government.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Does the member suggest that demand notice should not be included in the term "*coercive steps*"?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I am sorry I have not been intelligible enough to my friend. What I say is that the issue of demand notice comes under coercive steps. That is why I referred to the number of demand notices and based my argument on that.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Does the issue of demand notice necessarily prove the inability of the ryot to pay?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): It shows that the person who waited till the issue of demand notice, was less capable than the one who paid before. There may be others who have not paid even after the receipt of demand notices. If we are to draw an inference from the Administration Report of 1106, it will be found that movables were sold in auction in 463 cases for Rs. 3,674 and immovables in 2,412 cases for Rs. 49,060, the corresponding figures for 1105 being 369 cases for Rs. 4,269 and 1,551 cases for Rs. 27,199, respectively. This clearly shows that in 1106 the number of attachment

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of movables and immovables was considerably higher than in 1105 and that the amounts realised were lower. We can draw the inference with regard to 1107; and from that I am entitled to infer that this year the attachment of movables and the sale of immovables would be far larger in number.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Will the defaulters of this year be able to pay the tax of 1108 when it falls due?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I began my statement by answering that. The whole question of time will have to be reconsidered in 1108. I do not say that in 1108 conditions would be much better.

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Will it not be an additional burden to the tax-payer?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Yes. I said that if the financial conditions continue like this in 1108, Government will not be justified in realising two years' tax in 1108. I stated that definitely in the beginning of my speech.

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Does the member mean that it should always lie as arrears?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): First of all, I do not want the depression to continue. If it continues, the Government will have to show concessions. Why should Government exhibit so much hesitation in such an important matter like suspension of coercive proceedings.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): ജനങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടം ഇങ്ങനെ പ്രസംഗരൂപത്തിൽ കഴിച്ചാൽ മതിഎന്നു മാത്രമെ മിസ്റ്റർ ആശാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ അതല്ല വോട്ടിനിടണമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശമുണ്ടോ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): വോട്ടിനിടണം; എന്റെ പ്രസംഗംകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ പിന്നെയും ധാരാളം സമയമുണ്ട്. ഇനി ഒരാളെ സംസാരിക്കാനുള്ളു, അതുകൊണ്ടു വോട്ടിനിടുന്നതിനു സമയമില്ലാതെ പോവുകയില്ല.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Granting the argument of the member, supposing arrears were allowed to accumulate on a particular property, when the depression gets removed, arrears would become even higher than the value of the property, and the owner of it will not have any chance of getting anything after payment of arrears.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): That is a hypothetical question.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I ask whether, if it comes to that, Government could not write off the tax?

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Karikapalli*) : That is another hypothetical question; I am not inclined to answer that also.

With these observations, I press the motion to a division.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I have not much to add to what I have said before. I may bring to the notice of the House that 40 per cent. of the people who pay land tax pay less than a rupee, and owing to the partitions which are going on in large numbers..... .....

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Now the whole case is reduced to this. Coercive steps should be stayed with reference to the arrears of this year. Is there any objection to that proposition ?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income-Tax Commissioner*) : Mr. Nilakanta Pillai will allow me little time to express myself.

As I said, there is a lot of partition going on and therefore holdings will be less, and there will be more people who will be paying a smaller amount instead of big lump sums. As I said before, the resolution, as a general proposition, in its present form, cannot be accepted. But Mr. Asan's remarks will receive consideration and all deserving cases will be carefully considered. Under these circumstances, I request Mr. Asan to withdraw his motion.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The resolution before the House is as follows :—

"The necessity for the suspension of the coercive action by the officers of the Land Revenue Department for the collection of revenue."

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I wish to know whether Mr. Asan withdraws his motion ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : I press the motion to a division.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*) : I believe Mr. Asan's motion relates to arrears for 1107 only.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : That is not the motion.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. Asan has explained that in his speech.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*) : The fixing of one year for the suspension of coercive steps is another amendment to his motion.

The motion was carried.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : I demand a poll. A poll was taken with the following result :—

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AYES—30.

1	Mr.	K. P. Abraham	17	Mr.	Tariatu Kunjitomman
2	Mrs.	Anna Chandi	18	,,	K. Kunjukrishna Pillai
3	Mr.	K. C. Chandi	19	,,	K. Madhavan Pillai
4	,,	S. Chattanatha Karayalar	20	,,	K. P. Madhavan Pillai
5	,,	A. S. Damodaran Asan	21	,,	M. P. Madhavan Pillai
6	,,	K. Gopalakrishna Pillai	22	,,	M. Mahomed Mustapha
7	,,	M. Govindan	23	,,	P. S. Mahomed
8	,,	N. John Joseph	24	,,	K. Narayanaperumal Nadar
9	,,	Joseph Kunju	25	,,	A. Narayana Pillai
10	,,	K. C. Karunakaran	26	,,	K. P. Nilakanta Pillai
11	,,	K. I. Kocheeppan Mappilla	27	,,	K. Padmanabha Panikkar
12	,,	K. P. Kochukora Tarakan	28	,,	R. S. Subrahmanya Pillai
13	,,	K. Krishnan Nayar	29	,,	N. A. Sundaram Pillai
14	,,	E. V. Krishna Pillai	30	,,	A. Thanu Pillai
15	,,	N. K. Krishna Pillai			
16	,,	S. Krishna Pillai			

NOES—15.

1	Mr.	L. A. Bishop	9	Mr.	N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
2	,,	R. Dhanukoti Pillai	10	,,	G. Paramesvaran Pillai
3	,,	K. George	11	,,	Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai
4	,,	A. Kumara Pillai	12	Dr.	K. Raman Tampi
5	Rao Sahib	Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai	13	Mr.	S. C. H. Robinson
6	Mr.	C. O. Madhavan	14	,,	P. Visvanatha Aiyar
7	,,	E. G. McAlpine	15	,,	J. S. Westerdale
8	,,	R. Nilakanta Pillai			

The motion was declared carried.

The Council adjourned at 5 P. M.

P. VISVANATHA AIYAR,

Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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